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MING CASE CONTINUED.

Proceedings in Trial of J. W. Ming Before Justice Ferrell.

The preliminary trial of J. W. Ming, which was to have been continued on Tuesday, but was postponed on account of the necessary absence of Attorney Duggins of the defense, was taken up at 10 o'clock Thursday morning, in the County Court Room, justices Ferrell and Hawley presiding. Long before the opening of the trial, the crowd began to gather and at the time the defendant entered the room, the seating capacity of the house was filled. The case has attracted great interest throughout the county as was evidenced by the attention the large crowds attending the trial, have paid to even the unimportant details of the examination. The defendant has borne himself very coolly throughout the trial, with a look of total freedom from either the pangs of an accusing guilt or the dread of threatening judgment. The widow of the murdered man came into court about 9:30 wearing a heavy veil, the garb of mourning, which was drawn down over her face, making it one of concealment as well, from the inquisitive eyes of all those who take such a keen interest in the parties to the affair. The defendant dozed until a very late hour (at least this is the reported cause of his tardiness) and did not enter the court room until 9:45. He was followed soon after by all the witnesses. The house was now packed and the doorway thronged with a restless crowd that endeavored to gain admittance.

Court was opened and the following witnesses: Dr. Smith, Dr. Gore, E. J. Craddock, C. C. Craddock, Pat Bryan and Mose Wilson were duly sworn by Justice Hawley. Dr. Ming was then sworn.

Mose Wilson was the first witness to be examined, who stated that previous to the last five months he had lived near Miami. Mr. Wilson occupies the second door from Ming's and told of the entrance from the barber shop through a back door into the billiard room of Ming's hotel. Witness stated that he went into the hotel through this entrance into the hall of Ming's hotel between 10 and 11 o'clock on 22nd of December, to see some friends, including Hiram Winning, Pat Bryan and others. He remained here in the hall about 25 minutes, and during this time while standing there, saw the defendant J. W. Ming. Witness heard Ming cursing the negroes for not doing their business; called Ashby up and asked him why he didn't attend to his business, to which Ashby replied that he had done the business he had sent him to do and had called Emmett up. Ming called Ashby and told him that if he thought they (the negroes) could run the hotel, he would show them; said they were dealing with "Uncle Jimmie" now and not Phil. Ming drew a revolver on him and said he had a notion to shoot him, but the negro put up a great speel and got away. Ming then turned and went into the pool room. Craddock at this time came in and went in wash room. Ming caught him as he returned and asked him why he didn't attend to his business, to which he replied that he was. Craddock offered to quit and Ming

told him that was what he wanted and ordered him out. They walked on; stopping again, Ming told Craddock that he had sent for him an hour ago; to which Craddock said he was mistaken. Ming called him a liar and said he could prove it; called Ashby and asked if his statement was not correct. Ashby said he (Ming) had sent for him, but just how long ago, he couldn't say. Parties walked on in, stopping by the counter; Ming ordered Emmett to leave several times, and as Emmett leaned over on the counter with his right hand upturned asking his pay, Ming fired the shot. Witness saw Ming draw pistol on Ashby at least twice.

Duggins opened cross-examination with questions concerning his visit to the hall, again bringing out the facts of the direct examination. Witness stated that he paid little attention to Ming while talking to his friends and was standing in the east part of the hall just west of the saloon door. Witness stated that he was within four or five feet of Ming when he was talking to Ashby and was then standing near the hotel office. Stated he did not see Ming with his pistol after coming from the pool room, but thought he carried his cane. Witness stated that Craddock, after Ming had called him a liar, spoke in a very calm tone of voice; also that the conversation with Lewis Ashby was loud and noisy and that with Craddock was not so much so.

Witness stated that Ming was between himself and Craddock when before the counter in the main hall, when Craddock demanded his pay, and didn't remember how many times Craddock was ordered to leave. Evidence was introduced to show that the deceased laid his hand on the counter open faced when demanding his pay. Witness neither saw Craddock pull his coat back nor place his hand on rock but testified that the shot was fired the instant the deceased placed his hand on the counter and that the pistol was fired without aim, just as he pulled it up. Witness had not seen the pistol before this which was fired just at the time he saw it. Didn't remember the dress of Emmett Craddock, but stated that he was within 8 or 10 steps or yards from Ming at the time of the shot. Witness, in answer to a question, did not remember having shaved attorney Duggins, but did remember talking to Duggins in front of Schluter's. Stated, however, he did not say that Craddock threw his hand down upon the counter, but remembered saying the pistol was fired just at this time. After a short redirect examination and questions by Justice Hawley as to the relative positions of parties and objects, the witness was excused.

Pat Bryant was next witness called upon by attorneys for the state, who said that he lived 3 miles south of Miami and knew Thos. Chilcott, Hiram Winning and Mose Wilson. Met them at Ming's Hotel and was there at the time of the shooting, but did not see it; was standing in back hall between saloon door and billiard hall door and had been there for about 5 minutes; noticed Ming talking to a darkey 15 minutes before the shooting, but it was not Craddock. He heard Ming call this negro a liar, who said he would be back as soon as he could; saw Ming

with a revolver but couldn't understand what he said; witness saw Craddock come in and after this Ming came up to the pool room door, but couldn't understand much of what they said; from a distance he could see Ming and Craddock when talking before the counter, but did not see the pistol shot, as he was not looking in that direction at the time. Witness was dismissed without cross-examination.

Hiram Winning was first witness called after dinner and in answer to Attorney Reynold's questions, told the following story: I had been in the hotel about five minutes when Ming came in, talking to Mose Wilson, Pat Bryan and others, and didn't pay much attention to what Ming said. He asked Ashby if he had told Emmett Craddock to come to him; continuing, witness stated that Ming was talking louder than he usually did; Ashby was talking in a little louder tone and said he had told Emmett what he told him to; then Ming turned around and walked off. It was only a few minutes before witness saw Craddock and Ming together at the door entering the billiard hall. Ming was heard by the witness to ask why Emmett didn't come when he called for him, to which Craddock replied that he was busy; witness did not remember other conversation but saw them pass over to south entrance between main office and saloon. The only conversation heard, was when witness looked around and saw Ming take hold of lapel of Craddock's coat and said "you've got on clothes now that I gave you." The next time witness noticed them, they were in main office just in front of cigar stand, but could not hear the conversation; the third time witness looked around, he heard Ming say "get out of the house" and as he said that, took hold of Craddock's coat and pulled him toward the door. "It looked to me then," said the witness, "like he threw his hand out and shoved Ming back and then put his hand down on the counter." Witness looked away just at this time and was talking to Chilcott when the shot was fired. Ming was between the witness and Emmett Craddock, when first in the office. The witness stated that he stood near the stairway during the entire time and was sure that Craddock wore a coat of bluish gray. After hearing the pistol shot, witness stated he started toward Ming and Ming toward him, when they met; witness took hold of him and also Dr. Smith, the city marshal, at the same time. The witness then took the pistol out of Ming's pocket and placed it in his own. Mick Montague and the witness then took Ming to his room. The pistol was a 32 old fashioned Smith & Wesson, rim fire. Dr. Smith started toward Craddock, but witness knew nothing of who took charge of him. Pistol identified and introduced in the trial as evidence.

Cross examination of the witness followed, but no additional evidence on the conversations in the hall was secured. Witness heard Ming order Craddock from the house when in front of the counter. Repeated his testimony of Ming taking hold of Craddock's coat and motioning to the door. "He looked," said the witness, "as though he shoved Ming back and took one step forward." Witness

stated that he has known Ming for a long time and that the defendant had a cork leg; knew Craddock to be a strong man and one very young, comparatively speaking. Redirect examination resumed; witness stated he had known Emmett Craddock for 5 or 6 years as porter at the hotel and repeated other evidence.

Dr. Smith was the next witness called and stated that he was at Ming's hotel at the time of the shooting in the saloon room. Witness stated that he heard boisterous talking as he came in the saloon door from the street, near the office door leading into the hall. Recognized the voice of Jas. Ming. When his attention was attracted by this loud talking, he walked to door of saloon where he could see through a screen door, the parties to the dispute, but could not hear what was said. As the screen door was thrown back, witness saw Ming throw up his hand and shoot. Mr. Ming, after the shot, turned and then facing east came towards him. Smith asked, "What's the trouble with you Uncle Jimmie?" To which the reply came, "I allow no G—d—nigger to talk back to me." Dr. Smith said to him "You have shot Craddock and you must now consider yourself under arrest." As witness reached out, he said "No" and moved up toward the stairway. Witness then took hold of his left hand and Hiram Winning hold of his right; then took his revolver from him. Smith told him he would turn him over to the sheriff and at that time Winning said "I'll take charge of him." Smith then went to see Craddock and found him lying down on floor with head toward the southwest. Craddock asked Dr. Smith to please raise him up, which he did and took him to Dr. Hall's office, assisted by Jack Patterson. Witness stated Craddock was bleeding profusely at the time. Cross examination begun by attorneys for defense and witness stated he knew nothing of the difficulty leading up to the shooting. Stated Mr. Ming was very much excited when arrested.

E. J. Craddock, a brother of the deceased was the next witness called to the stand, who was informed of the shooting at 11:25 and saw his brother at the office of Drs. Hall & Gore in the jacket produced in court.

H. Winning was recalled and examined as to the correctness of the plot, showing the hotel halls and passages. Dr. D. C. Gore, the last witness for the state not being present, court adjourned to 9 a. m. Friday morning.

The proceedings of last Saturday in this case can be found on the 7th page.

DIVORCE CASE.

Mrs. Martha Graham, through her attorney S. Smithson of Waverly, has filed suit in the circuit court of this county for divorce from her present husband, alleging that he has never supported her and praying the court to restore her maiden name of Martha Smith. Their home is north of Grand Pass and have only been married for a year or two. The marriage in the first place was under very unhappy circumstances and the divorce will be no surprise to those who know the parties.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY.

A Surprise Tendered Mr. T. J. Robertson at His Bachelor Home Near Mt. Leonard.

One of the most novel, yet at the same time most delightful pleasures of the past week was the surprise given to an amiable and agreeable old bachelor of West Saline, Mr. T. J. Robertson.

The host was taken unawares by a party of 120 friends, but proved equal to the emergency in treating his guests with a hospitality and grace that people who read novels, would never think of receiving in a bachelor's home. The home of Mr. Robertson is an elegant old country place and on this night was soon adapted to the scenes of mirth and pleasure that followed the arrival of so many jolly guests.

Dancing, card playing and other games were indulged in by the members of the party, who crowded more pleasure in a few short hours than often falls to one's lot in the long months of a winter season. Music was furnished by the Corder String Band and was of such a character that it was appreciated and enjoyed by all its hearers. Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Joe Robertson chaperoned the party, and to them is due the credit for the perfect arrangements made and the pleasant way in which their plans were carried out, for making the evening an enjoyable one.

Refreshments were served at midnight, but the merriment of the evening continued until 3:30 in the morning, when the young people there, having spent several hours that in after life with could be ever recalled the most vivid recollections of pleasure, bade their genial host adieu. Among those present were representatives from Marshall, Blackburn, Shackelford, Sweet Springs, Malta Bend, Fairville and Miami, in fact from everywhere in the county. The greatest surprise of the surprise party is that Mr. Robertson did not get next to the plot which his friends were planning for him.

A Probate Court Suit.

William Odell has lately been summoned to appear before the Probate Court, on a charge that he is of unsound mind, incapable of managing his own affairs and a guardian should be appointed to manage his estate. The case has been continued until Friday December 30. D. D. Duggins represents the parties setting up the insanity and R. B. Ruff is attorney for William Odell. Mr. Odell does not concede the charges and will make a lively fight against the parties instituting the proceedings.

MASONS' RECEPTION.

On the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 27th, the Blackburn Masons very delightfully entertained the sweethearts and wives of the members and many other visitors. Elegant refreshments were served during the evening to the number of 150 plates. Those from here report a nice time and speak in most complimentary terms of the good treatment always shown to visitors in a Blackburn entertainment of any kind. This reception is an annual occurrence, being given by the Masons there during every Christmas season.